

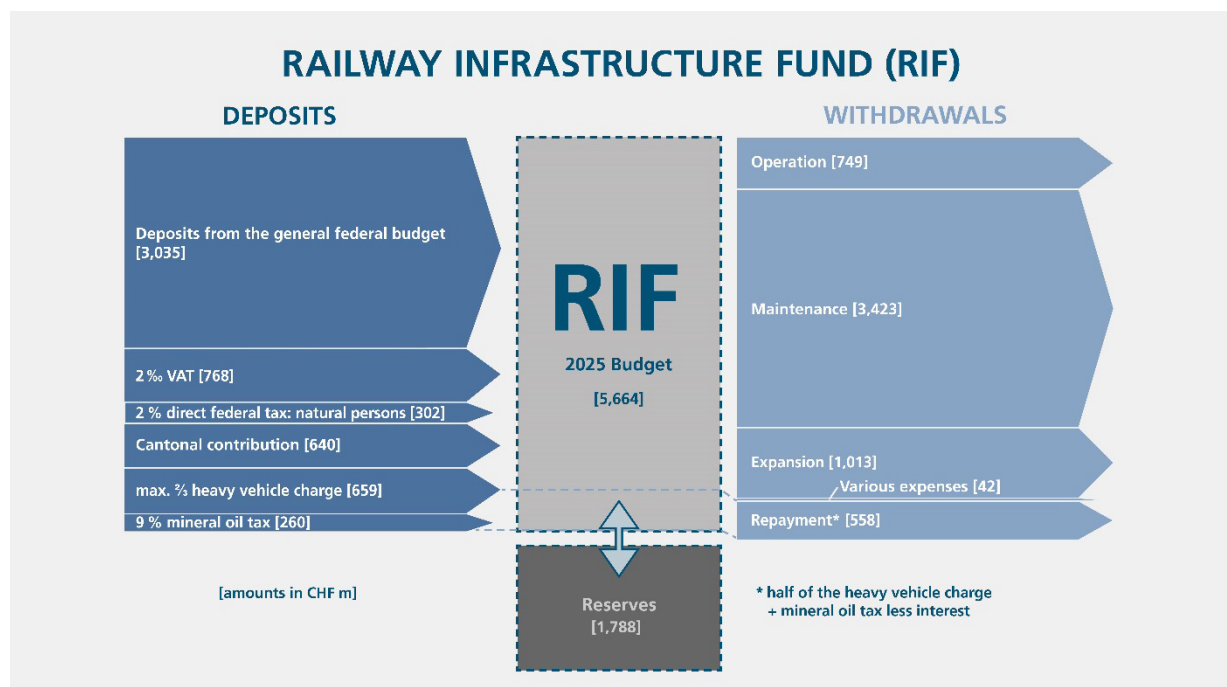


Reference: BAV-059-1

## Factsheet

# The Railway Infrastructure Fund

Switzerland has had an open-ended Railway Infrastructure Fund (RIF) since 2016. This replaced the Fund for Major Railway Projects (FinTP Fund), which was set up in 1998 for a set period of time. The RIF primarily finances the operation and maintenance (renewal and modernisation) of existing railway infrastructure, but also the further expansion of the Swiss railway network and research into railway infrastructure.



The RIF is fed from various earmarked sources, namely from VAT, the mineral oil tax and direct federal tax, and flat-rate contributions from the cantons. The largest earmarked source of funding is the heavy vehicle charge (lorry toll). Funds are also allocated from the general federal budget. In total, a good CHF 6 billion flows into the fund each year.

The RIF secures for Switzerland earmarked financial resources for the railway infrastructure. The political authorities retain their decision-making authority.

The Federal Council (Swiss government) sets the amount of funding to be allocated to the RIF. In particular, it has a certain amount of leeway regarding the contribution from the heavy vehicle charge.

In a four-year cycle, Parliament decides on the amount of funds to be paid out from the RIF for the operation and maintenance of the existing network. CHF 16.4 billion has been earmarked for the 2025–28 period. The Federal Council presents a dispatch to Parliament describing the current state of the network and use of the infrastructure and requesting approval of funds.

It also submits to Parliament every four to eight years concrete proposals for further expansion of the railway infrastructure. In the last ten years or so, Parliament has approved several expansion programmes involving 300 projects costing over CHF 28 billion.

Parliament decides on how much of the money in the RIF is to be spent the following year on operation, maintenance, expansion and research when the federal budget is set.

#### **Further information:**

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